

# Larry Niven Quotes

*Writing, People, Space, Thinking, Years, Stories, Men, Technology, Running,  
Predicting, Past, Hate, Fool, Ethics, Book, Giving Up, Long, Mistake, Six,  
Political*

Ethics change with technology.

~Larry Niven

SF isn't a genre; SF is the matrix in which genres are embedded, and because the SF field is never going in any one direction at any one time, there is hardly a way to cut it off.

~Larry Niven

The human species really could have faced global thermonuclear war. During seventy years of Cold War we grew used to it.

~Larry Niven

Everything starts as somebody's daydream.

~Larry Niven

In the world of words the imagination is one of the forces of nature.

~Larry Niven

In hindsight it may even seem inevitable that a socialist society will starve when it runs out of capitalists.

~Larry Niven

You learn by writing short stories. Keep writing short stories. The money's in novels, but writing short stories keeps your writing lean and pointed.

~Larry Niven

We learn only to ask more questions.

~Larry Niven

It's very difficult for a black man to get out of South-Central Los Angeles, and get out civilized....The only men I know who have escaped, all began reading Robert Heinlein at age ten.

~Larry Niven

One mark of a good officer, he remembered, was the ability to make quick decisions. If they happen to be right, so much the better.

~Larry Niven

The Gods do not protect fools. Fools are protected by more capable fools.

~Larry Niven

I'd visit the near future, close enough that someone might want to talk to Larry Niven and can figure out the language; distant enough to get me decent medical techniques and a ticket to the Moon.

~Larry Niven

I've got five or six unpublished stories kicking around looking for somebody to buy them.

~Larry Niven

I do suspect that privacy was a passing fad.

~Larry Niven

Building one space station for everyone was and is insane: we should have built a dozen.

~Larry Niven

There is no cause so good or noble that it will not attract fuggheads; and the fuggheads will get all the press.

~Larry Niven

Mother Nature doesn't care if you're having fun.

~Larry Niven

And every friend I've got has been writing Mars stories. It was pretty clear I'd never catch up.

~Larry Niven

Anything beats an expensive stack of paper.

~Larry Niven

Bruce Sterling is one terrific writer and he's relatively new, but I don't know how long he's been doing it; he probably doesn't need the publicity anymore!

~Larry Niven

I have a kind of psychic invisibility. As long as I can stay scared, I can keep people from seeing me. That's what we have to count on.

~Larry Niven

The best advice I was ever given was on my twenty-first birthday when my father said, Son, here's a million dollars. Don't lose it.

~Larry Niven

Boredom is my worst enemy. It's killed a lot of my friends, but it won't get me. When I get bored, I go risk my life somewhere.

~Larry Niven

Species evolve to meet the environment. An intelligent species changes the environment to suit itself. As soon as a species becomes intelligent, it should stop evolving.

~Larry Niven

Love was a delicious blend of warm and cold. There was comfort in making love. It solved no problems: but one could run away from problems.

~Larry Niven

The Product of Freedom and Security is a constant ( $F \times S = k$ ). Giving up freedom for security is beginning to look naive.

~Larry Niven

I don't have a strong interest in history.

~Larry Niven

My problem with new writers is that it takes me five or six years to memorise the right names.

~Larry Niven

In general, I don't know when inspiration will pop up.

~Larry Niven

Intelligence is just a tool to be used toward a goal, and goals are not always chosen intelligently.

~Larry Niven

The dinosaurs became extinct because they didn't have a space program.

~Larry Niven

That's the thing about people who think they hate computers. What they really hate is lousy programmers.

~Larry Niven

Sometimes there's no point in giving up.

~Larry Niven

How much intelligence does it take to sneak up on a leaf?

~Larry Niven

There is a technical, literary term for those who mistake the opinions and beliefs of characters in a novel for those of the author. The term is 'idiot'.

~Larry Niven

Fear is the brother of hate.

~Larry Niven

Any damn fool can predict the past.

~Larry Niven

Never fire a laser at a mirror.

~Larry Niven

If one must explain a magic trick, one should do so after the show is over.

~Larry Niven

In challenging a kzin, a simple scream of rage is sufficient. You scream and you leap.

~Larry Niven

Half of wisdom is learning what to unlearn.

~Larry Niven

A civilization has the ethics it can afford

~Larry Niven

I am trying to prevent a bloodbath. Is that clear enough for you? I'm trying to prevent a civil war that could kill half the people in this world.

~Larry Niven

Never tell a computer to forget it.

~Larry Niven

Anything that can go wrong, will

~Larry Niven

I'd repair our education system or replace it with something that works.

~Larry Niven

But... watching Steven Barnes taught me to treat my life like an art form.

~Larry Niven

We're looking as far ahead as we can, and we don't get penalized for mistakes.

~Larry Niven

We should not have assumed that a political space station could be built.

~Larry Niven

I do not believe they've run out of surprises.

~Larry Niven

I never got good at predicting what millions of people will suddenly decide is rational.

~Larry Niven

I love superconductors.

~Larry Niven

I'm not predicting; I just love playing with superconductors.

~Larry Niven

I've spent a lot of my life among people brighter than myself.

~Larry Niven

It is a cardinal sin to bore the reader.

~Larry Niven

The witnessing of titanic events is always dangerous, usually painful, and often fatal.

~Larry Niven

Hopeless causes are the only ones worth fighting for. The fight for the taxpayer is the most hopeless of them all.

~Larry Niven

Jesus Pietro wasn't used to dealing with ghosts. It would require brand new techniques. Grimly he set out to evolve them.

~Larry Niven

The majority is always sane.

~Larry Niven

The perversity of the Universe tends towards a maximum.

~Larry Niven

Psi and/or magical powers, if real, are nearly useless.

~Larry Niven

Consider the true picture. Think of myriads of tiny bubbles, very sparsely scattered, rising through a vast black sea. We rule some of the bubbles. Of the waters we know nothing.

~Larry Niven

The value of a thing is what that thing will bring. -Legal Maxim

~Larry Niven

Treat your life like something to be sculpted.

~Larry Niven

Stupidity is always a capital crime.

~Larry Niven

In a collaboration, each author will do 75% of the work.

~Larry Niven



The Unexpected always comes at the most awkward times.

~Larry Niven

Anything you don't understand is dangerous until you do understand it.

~Larry Niven

Never be embarrassed or ashamed by anything you choose to write.

~Larry Niven

**Related Links:**

- Writing Quotes
- People Quotes
- Space Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Years Quotes
- Stories Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Technology Quotes
- Running Quotes
- Predicting Quotes
- Past Quotes
- Hate Quotes
- Fool Quotes
- Ethics Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Giving Up Quotes
- Long Quotes
- Mistake Quotes
- Six Quotes
- Political Quotes